

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 December, 1977

AM

10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: 24 January, 1977
28 February, 1977

- B. Minutes of November 1977 meeting.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

- A. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,
Lighting Mockup.

2. American Legion Freedom Bell, Columbus Plaza, Union
Station - Site and Support Plans.

- B. General Services Administration

F.O.B. #6, Maryland Avenue & 6th Street, S.W., Installa-
tion of Solar Film - Resubmission.

- C. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Marian Anderson Medal - Resubmission.

- D. D.C. Department of General Services

1. Georgetown Market Renovations, 3276 M Street, N.W. -
Resubmission.

2. Lincoln Center for the Mentally Retarded and Physi-
cally Handicapped, 5th & L Streets, S.E., Building Replacement.

- E. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-13, 310 1st Street, S.E., Four-Story Addition
to Existing Four-Story Building.

2. SL 78-14, 326 1st Street, S.E., Demolition.

3. SL 78-18, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building - Resubmission, Redesign of Garden Wall.

4. Appendix 1.

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-24, 3301 M Street, N.W., Demolition of Existing One-Story Garage.

2. OG 78-25, 3301 M Street, N.W., New Townhouse Group and Commercial Space.

3. OG 78-27, 2934 M Street, N.W., Enclose Rear Garden.

4. OG 78-29, 3616 N Street, N.W., New Single-Family Residence - Resubmission.

5. OG 78-30, 3000 M Street, N.W., Hotel/Office/Commercial Complex - Revision.

6. OG 78-31, 1560 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., New Townhouses.

7. OG 78-34, 35th & M Streets, N.W., Northwest Corner, Two New Residences.

8. OG 78-35, 3222 M Street, N.W., New Commercial, Residential, Accessory Parking Building - Resubmission.

9. OG 78-36, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Demolition of Building on Lot 59.

10. OG 78-37, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Renovation of Existing Building - Resubmission.

11. Appendix 2.

G. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

1. Historic Subdivision No. 70, 3251 Prospect Street, N.W., Square 1218, Subdivision of Original Lots 14 to 16, 85, Part of Lots 89, 90, 95, and 98 to One Record Lot.

2. Historic Subdivision No. 71, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Square 1200, Conversion and Combination of Assessment and Taxation Lots 802 and 832 with Record Lot 50 to One Record Lot.

20 December, 1977

3.

INSPECTIONS

Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

*South Sidewalk Area, Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd & 4th
Streets, N.W., Plans and Specifications.*

20 December, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 78-17	3222 M Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Venture	Residential, commercial, and accessory garage building (resubmission refer to OG 77-99).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit until after working drawings, material samples, and final details have been reviewed and approved. Preliminary concept is approved with suggestion that parking/pedestrian entrance along Wisconsin Avenue be restudied in terms of streetscape, human scale elements compatible with historic district. Restoration of M Street frontage and C. & O. Canal retaining wall endorsed. See OG 78-18. 11/28/77	
18	3225 Grace Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Venture	Renovation of existing building (resubmission refer to OG 77-99).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend retention to the extent possible of existing building shells including original walls and roofs. Encourage reuse of existing opening patterns to the extent possible. Facade studies presented fail to do this. Concept of park at east end of project approved. Concept of bridges approved subject to concurrence of National Park Service and approval of designs. 11/28/77	
19	3248 Q Street, N.W. M Street Associates ACTION: Issue permit. 12/14/77	Remove front porch, roof, and steps. Replace with metal steps.
20	3254 Q Street, N.W. M Street Associates ACTION: Issue permit. 12/14/77	Remove front porch, roof, and steps. Replace with metal steps.
21	3256 Q Street, N.W. M Street Associates ACTION: Issue permit. 12/14/77	Remove front porch, roof, and steps. Replace with metal steps.
22	1623 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Robert N. Wolpe	Raze front wall of building (resubmission refer to OG 77-135).
ACTION:	Issue permit for removal and replacement of facade including original or matching bricks, trim, sash, and details. Prior to commencing this work, CFA requests opportunity to photograph, measure, and otherwise document the facade to insure accuracy of reconstruction, including dimension of brick joints, and vertical relationships as measured from the sidewalk. 11/28/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

20 December, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 78-		
23	1699 31st Street, N.W. Donald Mitchell	Replace back porch.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/14/77	
26	2719 O Street, N.W. Caroline C. Ramsay	Enclosure of rear porch.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/14/77	
28	1623 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Robert N. Wolpe	Raze entire building (resubmission refer to OG 78-22).
ACTION:	Recommend issuance of permit, with following conditions: Existing cornice details, window sash and trim on second floor be preserved and reused on reconstructed facade in order to duplicate appearance of existing second floor facade. All remaining new detailing to be consistent in every way with reused elements, including appearance of new brickwork. Special care should be exercised in demolition in order to avoid damage to adjoining buildings, especially overlapping cornices where 1623 Wisconsin joins 1625 Wisconsin. Photos of existing facade elements on file with Commission of Fine Arts records. 12/12/77	
33	1063 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Harald Geisinger et al.	Alteration of existing commercial building to restaurant; combine windows of ground and first floors, south facade, for greater unity of appearance, add elevator and mechanical penthouse (resubmission refer to OG 77-161).
ACTION:	Preliminary approval. Submit working drawings, material and color samples. 12/14/77	
39	1691 34th Street, N.W. Charles H. Percy	Enlargement of third floor bedroom.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/19/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

20 December, 1977

PROJECT

ADDRESS AND OWNER

NO.

SL 78-

12

1889 F Street, N.W.

Inter American Properties

Multi-story single-tenant office building - material sample (resubmission refer to SL 78-5).

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend additional sample or samples be erected on site in a lighter and varied range with tinted mortar to approximate #10 Cushwa Calvert Rose sample inspected on site, 22 November, 1977. 11/25/77

15

5196 27th Street, N.W.

Covell Builders, Inc.

Two new single-family dwellings (resubmission refer to SL 77-82).

ACTION: Issue permit. Recommend that construction be performed with care for protection and preservation of large and small scale natural foliation and trees, and that as much additional landscaping as possible screen new construction from adjacent houses and park. 11/25/77

16

1503 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Riggs National Bank

Install 24-hour automatic teller machine.

ACTION:

Issue permit. 11/30/77

19

2901 Tennyson Street, N.W.

Douglas Gordon

Replace bow window.

ACTION:

Issue permit. 12/7/77

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 December, 1977

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Philip W. Buchen
Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey
Hon. Eli S. Jacobs
Hon. Kevin Roche
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff Present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
Mrs. Sue A. Kohler

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present: Mr. David Richards

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. The next meetings were set for 19 January and 28 February, 1978. A list of Commission of Fine Arts meetings for 1978 was approved scheduling the fourth Tuesday of each month for a meeting day with the exceptions of the 19th of January and the 19th of December.

B. Minutes of the November 1977 meeting were approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Exterior Re-Lighting. The project was represented by Mr. Robert Romanowski of the Park Service; Mr. Claude Engle, the lighting consultant; and Mr. Avery Faulkner, the consulting architect. The Chairman reviewed the Commission's previous evening's tour of the Kennedy Center and their general satisfaction with a mockup of the proposed new lighting scheme. Mr. Romanowski reviewed the unsatisfactory situation with the present in-floor lights leaking and causing problems. He indicated that placing the lights in the soffit of the main building would make them too high for proper maintenance.

The Commission concurred with placement of new lights on the exterior columns of the building with prime light shining up to the

soffit with reduced power 500 watt bulbs. Some downlight spill was recommended to achieve additional character. Matching the fixtures to the color of the columns was recommended, as was the replacement of small scale side trees with larger trees. It was also recommended that the fixtures be lowered on the column to a height of approximately twelve feet above the terrace, and that the fixtures provide some down lighting to provide a surface accent to the generally even lighting of the walls and soffit. The Park Service and consultants were agreeable to pursuing the project on that basis. Mr. Faulkner asked how the Commission felt about illuminating the building's attic. The members recommended against over-illumination of that area with the possibility of easily controlled soffit lights shining down to the roof terrace pavement and some perimeter lighting in the planting to give night-time definition to the presently under-lighted area. Most of the lighting would be for the benefit of persons on the rooftop terraces and would have limited visibility from the ground.

EXHIBIT A

2. American Legion Freedom Bell, Columbus Plaza, Union Station, Site Improvement and Plans. The project was represented by Mr. Joseph Ronsisvalle of the National Park Service and Messers Matthew Irvin and William Anderson. The Secretary told the members that the bell had been placed on the Bicentennial Freedom Train by the American Legion who were now donating it to the American People. The Memorial Advisory Committee had agreed on this site near the Union Station National Visitors' Center. Three alternatives were presented by the architect, who indicated the Park Service's preference for a simple circular brick paved base and a concrete pair of side walls supporting a steel yoke.

The members examined the materials and concurred with the third scheme, recommending additional study on the bell supports. Mr. Roche suggested simple steel supports; the Chairman indicated stone supports might also work. An off-center circular motif as shown on the drawings was not approved. Mrs. Homsey suggested that the supports ought not visually or actually affect the sound dispersion of the bell. Mr. Stone stated that the siting and the height proposed for the bell were quite good. The Commission unanimously recommended additional study of the project.

EXHIBIT B

B. General Services Administration

F.O.B. #6, Maryland Avenue & 6th Street, S.W., Installation of Solar Film - Resubmission. Mr. Claude Bernier of the GSA was present to ask the Commission if they were interested in revoking their previous approval of this installation. The Chairman indicated that Mr. Jennings of the Commission staff had prepared a report on the solar film subject, raising some questions to the suitability and effectiveness of wide-spread use of solar film throughout government

buildings. The Commission was not inclined to alter their previous approval, but did want to caution GSA on a widespread commitment to such installations. The Chairman thanked Mr. Jennings for his research on the subject, and Mr. Stone suggested a copy of his report be sent to GSA.

EXHIBIT C

C. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Marian Anderson Medal - Resubmission. The Secretary introduced Mr. George Schafer of the Mint, who presented a plaster maquette incorporating the Commission's previous suggestions for redesign of the medal. The Commission examined the model and unanimously approved the redesign, commending the Mint for their efforts.

EXHIBIT D

D. D.C. Department of General Services

1. Georgetown Market Renovations, 3276 M Street, N.W. - Resubmission. The Secretary presented a model and indicated the restoration project as reviewed by the members in November had been modified per Commission suggestions. A rear addition which would house new elevator and mechanical equipment had been objected to with a suggestion that all such items be incorporated into the building to leave the original rear facade intact. The project architect and sponsors had been able to accomplish this with a slight rooftop protrusion for the elevator overrun. The Commission unanimously approved the project.

EXHIBIT E

2. Lincoln Center for the Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped, 5th & L Streets, S.E., Building Replacement. The Assistant Secretary showed the Members a site near the Navy Yard indicating the proposed facility would be placed in an existing District of Columbia public reservation adjacent to recreation and academic facilities. The simple one-floor brick structure would contain classroom and staff function spaces suitable for a small local program. Mr. Charles Pavlick of the D.C. Department of General Services and the architect, Mr. Stanley McGaughan, described the project and its program further. Mr. Stone asked if it was common practice to put physically and mentally handicapped children together and there was some discussion of that general nature. The Chairman indicated that the Commission's interest concerned the exterior design, however, and the members approved the project unanimously. EXHIBIT F

E. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-13, 310 First Street, S.E., Four-Story Addition Adjacent to Existing Four-Story Building. The Assistant Secretary

indicated that the Commission had withheld action on this case during its November meeting. Though there was no objection to the design of the project, which simply carried out the theme of the existing building, a small building on the site would have to be demolished on the site prior to any construction, and merited some investigation. The Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, and the Joint Committee on Landmarks had all investigated the building, finding it a mid-19th century vernacular building with limited history, and marginal architectural interest. None of the above bodies objected to the proposed demolition or new construction. The Commission unanimously approved the design.

2. SL 78-14, 326 First Street, S.E., Demolition. See SL 78-13, above. The Commission unanimously approved the demolition of this building for purposes of constructing an addition to 310 First Street, S.W. which would be in harmony with the surroundings and more in scale with the adjacent Capitol Precinct.

3. SL 78-18, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building - Resubmission, Redesign of Garden Wall. The project was represented by Mr. Lewis Goetz, an architect with the Leo Daly office. Mr. Lawrence Kolp, a personal employee of the project's next-door neighbor, Mrs. Virginia Bacon, was present. The Secretary presented drawings showing alternate treatment for a free-standing wall proposed to go between the sidewalk and a sunken garden court and running from the new OAS Building to the private garden of the Bacon house. In addition, one drawing showed no wall at all, and another showed a metal fence in place of the wall. The Commission examined the drawings and discussed them with Mr. Goetz. The members unanimously favored the solution omitting the wall from the evidence presented, but asked for more design information and a model to examine the question further.

Mr. Goetz also presented a sample panel of precast material proposed for the penthouse of the new building. The members unanimously approved a buff-colored material which would minimize this element by blending with the color of the 130-foot-high party wall of the adjacent building to the north.

Mr. Kolp asked to make a statement on behalf of Mrs. Bacon, recommending the Commission advise on a matter of a wall of the new building overlapping Mrs. Bacon's garden wall by nine inches. The Commission listened to a discussion between Messers Goetz and Kolp on the subject. The subject was a matter of contractual relations between the private parties and would have no adverse visible effect from public space. The Commission ruled this was not a matter in which it should properly involve itself.

4. Appendix 1, approved.

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-24, 3301 M Street, N.W., Demolition of Existing One-Story Garage. The Assistant Secretary showed members on maps and in photos that the proposal involved a small unattractive former gas station structure. The Georgetown Board had recommended demolition; the Commission unanimously supported that action.

2. OG 78-25, 3301 M Street, N.W., New Townhouses and Commercial Space. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and a model of this low-scale mixed-use project, indicating that the Georgetown Board had recommended further design development. Mr. Vanderpool and Ms. Vytlačil, members of the Old Georgetown Board, were present and confirmed this. There had been some hope that as further designs were developed the window size and spacing as well as the thickness of the ground floor piers could have more study. The Commission concurred with this, and the architect, Mr. Alan Lockman, indicated his willingness to continue working with the Commission on further details. The Commission unanimously approved the preliminary concept, subject to further design development.

3. OG 78-27, 2934 M Street, N.W., Enclose Rear Garden. The Secretary presented drawings showing the complete enclosure of the rear dining garden of a small restaurant. The proposal would face a side street with sliding plastic doors and an arched plastic roof. The Georgetown Board had recommended against both the specific design and the principal of enclosing garden space totally in a visible open area. Mr. Vanderpool indicated the Board's hope that this type of development could be avoided in Georgetown. The Commission unanimously recommended against the proposal.

4. OG 78-29, 3616 N Street, N.W., New Single Family Residence - Resubmission and Brick Sample. The Assistant Secretary presented a model, site photos, and drawings of this project. A preliminary scheme had been recommended previously by the Board and Commission. Ms. Vytlačil and Mr. Vanderpool indicated their approval of the design and brick samples. The Commission discussed the type of windows most proper for the structure, recalling the preliminary design's having the casement type, and understanding Professor Nichols' concern for a one-over-one type of sash as proposed. After some discussion the members felt that the decision could be left to the architect and owner, but that the question had been raised. Mr. John Wiebenson, the architect, received the Commission's unanimous approval of the design and brick sample.

5. OG 78-30, 3000 M Street, N.W., Hotel/Office/Retail Complex - Revision. The project was represented by Messers Al Wheeler, the developer; and Mr. Leroy Owens, the architect. The Secretary showed the members drawings indicating a minor rear elevation revi-

sion to the pool area of this previously approved project. Two small one-floor additions within that area would have no real visibility from public space. The Commission examined the drawings and joined the Georgetown Board in unanimously approving the revisions.

6. OG 78-31, 1516 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., New Townhouses. The Secretary presented a model and drawings of this project proposed for a vacant site near Q Street on Wisconsin Avenue. A three-floor proposal for court-type housing with rear alley parking had a shop-type front on the first floor facing Wisconsin. The Old Georgetown Board felt that the project was a good use of the site and should have a go-ahead for additional design development and study. Ms. Vytlačil suggested that the Wisconsin Avenue facade be limited to two stories in height and given some additional design refinement. The architect, Mr. Alan Lockman, produced a new model showing a two-floor treatment on Wisconsin Avenue and offered to study a new facade design on that basis. The Commission unanimously approved the preliminary design direction.

7. OG 78-34, 35th & M Streets, N.W., Northwest Corner, Two New Residences. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and a model of a pair of new brick gable-roofed townhouses proposed for construction on top of an existing stone retaining wall. The houses would flank another project of several new houses being constructed on the grounds of Prospect House, along 35th Street. The Georgetown Board had recommended the houses for further design development. The Commission examined the materials showing interest in the solar heating panels on the roof. Mr. Stone asked that the Commission review the actual material of the roof panels as well as the brick samples prior to final approval. The members unanimously approved the preliminary design for further development.

8. OG 78-35, 3222 M Street, N.W., New Commercial, Residential, Accessory Parking Building - Resubmission. This and the next two items on the agenda were taken together since they involved a conglomerate project represented by architects Chloethiel Woodard Smith and Alan Lockman, and developer Herbert Miller. The Assistant Secretary recalled the Commission's previous approval of the concept of this project involving demolition of some trolley barns and erection of new shopping and residential complex just north of the C. & O. Canal, with the adaptive retail/residential reuse of warehouse/shop trolley buildings south of the Canal and facing Grace Street, N.W. The Georgetown Board had reviewed the project and was prepared to give a preliminary approval to the concept and preliminary design with the recommendation that the stone retaining wall along the Canal and the remaining facades along M Street be retained. Photographs, drawings, and a large project model were examined by the Commission and the two Georgetown Board members jointly with the project sponsors. The Assistant Secretary pointed out that the model represented a preli-

minary design and concept development which the developer had submitted for comment. A number of features of the project had not yet been fully designed, including a portion of walkway along the north side of the Canal above the towpath and the actual facades of two projecting higher apartment elements. The Board had suggested that some of the townhouse units within the complex were too close together; the architects indicated that could be rearranged easily. Mr. Miller indicated his hope that a partially open, or glass-enclosed walkway could top the C. & O. Canal retaining wall and that he was willing to retain and underpin the M Street facades if the Commission felt it better to keep than to replace these facades. The Commission unanimously approved the retention of the M Street facades, but made no mention of how this was to be done or for what depth into the project it would be best.

The Assistant Secretary told the members that in cooperation with the District Government the developer had prepared a traffic and parking study of the project and that these questions had been resolved as well as possible. Mr. Bastida of the D.C. Municipal Planning Office was present to confirm this coordination.

With the express mention of retaining the Canal wall and the M Street facades and the specific disapproval of the height of the high-rise buildings in the proposal, the Commission unanimously approved the scheme for design development. Material samples, working drawings, etc. would be submitted as developed. A provision to restudy the height of the two apartment buildings backing up the M Street facades was added in hope that these elements could be less visible outside the project.

9. OG 78-36, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Demolition of Building on Lot 59. The Assistant Secretary pointed out this building as being an addition to the buildings proposed for retention on Grace Street. The Building would be partially razed in conjunction with the above project, OG 78-35. A mini-garden or park would be placed on grade behind the original facade and connect to the project across the C. & O. Canal by a footbridge. The Commission examined this in photographs and on the model, finding the building to have little character (see OG 78-37). The Board had agreed to the proposed demolition and the Commission unanimously concurred with the recommendation to demolish the building provided the south wall were retained as part of the park.

10. OG 78-37, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Renovation of Existing Building - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Board action recommending that the walls of these industrial buildings be retained and reworked to permit residential/retail adaptive use. A non-fireproof roof would be replaced and there was some question on the use of dormers versus skylights in the minds of the designers. Window and door opening patterns on both sides of the buildings would be changed as part of the project. Mr. Lockman said

that this could be accomplished with brick now on the site and, by tuck pointing the entire project after construction, the original wall surface and appearance would be recaptured as much as possible. The Commission unanimously approved the preliminary scheme subject to further design development and approval.

11. Appendix 2, approved.

G. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

1. Historic Subdivision No. 70, 3251 Prospect Street, N.W., Square 1218, Subdivision of Original Lots 14 to 16, 85, Part of Lots 89, 90, 95, to One Record Lot. The Secretary reported that this was a record-keeping simplification for purposes of construction of the Prospect to N Street project by Phenix-Kraftco previously approved by the Commission. The Chairman indicated that this was a paper technicality and did not affect the design or the Commission's previous actions. The subdivision was unanimously approved.

2. Historic Subdivision No. 71, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Square 1200, Conversion and Combination of Assessment and Taxation Lots 802 and 832 with Record Lot 59 to One Record Lot. The Commission had just considered the project proposed for this lot under item F-OG-10, OG 78-37. The Commission was in favor of the project and unanimously approved the requested subdivision.

H. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

South Sidewalk Area, Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd & 4th Streets, N.W., Plans and Specifications. The project was represented by Messers W. Anderson Barnes and Jerry Przystup of PADC and their landscape consultants, Messers Hideo Sasaki and Donald Olson. The Secretary told the Commission that they were being asked for an approval of specific designs and materials to be installed adjacent to the National Gallery of Art East Building for a prototype of new sidewalk paving for the remainder of the Avenue. It was hoped that the project would be completed in time for the Gallery's opening on June 1, 1978.

Mr. Barnes, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, told the members that a diagonal eight-inch-square brown paving brick was being recommended for the walks. He indicated the timing involved, asked that the Commission tour several relevant sites, and introduced the consultants. Mr. Olson described the detailing of joints and the way the proposed materials would relate to tree grates, the new granite curbing, and the diagonal-orthogonal street intersections along the Avenue.

The Commission went to the FBI Headquarters, the J. Edgar Hoover Building at 9th and Pennsylvania, to confirm that the rather orange square brick-tiles used there would not be acceptable for further use. The Commission next examined the diagonal hastings block sidewalk at L'Enfant Plaza, 10th Street, SW, where the consultants had chalked some of the detailed relationships they intended for the Avenue. Finally the Commission examined a material sample mockup at the corner of 4th and Pennsylvania, next to the National Gallery of Art East Building. A grey granite for the curbing was unanimously approved as was the dark, purplish bus-lane brick. The Commission unanimously concurred with the use of diagonal square pavers for the main walk areas, with the soldigê courses along the granite edging and radial pavers abutting the circular tree grates. The material sample for the sidewalk itself was not approved. The PADC represenatives agreed to have the walk relaid with darker and more uniform material, and that in view of the rain no final determonation on the material could be made at that time.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m .

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton

Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

703 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1978

Dear Jack:

The Commission was glad to have the opportunity to inspect the lighting mockup at the Kennedy Center on December 19, 1977.

As you know, one of our principal concerns was the effect the new lights would have on the columns. If the columns were to be high-lighted above the fixtures in any way, there was a possibility they would look disjointed. I am happy to report that this was not the case during the demonstration. The columns appeared uniformly silhouetted against the walls and looked very well indeed. The architects also assured us that the effect could be reinforced by aiming the fixtures even farther away from the columns, so there would be no chance of spillage on the surface.

On the other hand, some down lighting from the fixtures directed at the terrace surface would be desirable. One of the nice features about the present lighting is the bright spots along the walls which give some relief to the large wall surfaces. The new scheme would be greatly enhanced if some of the same quality could be achieved in order to relieve the overall sameness of the lighting level. Of course similar precautions would have to be taken in aiming the lights so that again there was no spillage on the column surfaces.

In working with various settings of light during the demonstration, it was felt that the lower intensity warmer color was by far the most satisfactory. At the time we felt this could be best achieved by using a 500-watt bulb and dimming it down in order to get the desired intensity and color. If however this same effect can be achieved by using a lower wattage bulb in combination with transformers we would have no objection. Such a setup might have the added advantage of insuring no variation in fixture lighting levels through misadjustment during routine operation of the lights.

One final note on the height of the fixtures: it was our recommendation that they be lower, perhaps between 12 and 14 feet above the terrace level. This puts the fixture close to the present

January 10, 1978

line of trees on the south end of the Center, although we should emphasize that this is not a determining factor. Those trees are not ideal and should eventually be replaced with a larger-scale tree.

An important aspect is how the fixtures will look in the daylight. The Commission would like to have a look at the fixture designs and the lighting levels before final approval. Let us know when you would like us to make an inspection at least two weeks in advance so we can set up our meeting schedule accordingly.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

703 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1978

Dear Jack:

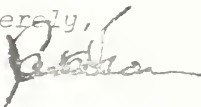
The Commission reviewed the designs for the installation of the American Legion Freedom Bell at its meeting on December 20, 1977.

First let me say the Commission thinks the site on Columbus Plaza in front of Union Station and the Visitors Center is first-rate. It is a beautiful space, and the Park Service's desire to place the bell in as simple a way as possible as shown in Scheme 3 is entirely appropriate.

To follow along in the spirit of this setting, it will be necessary to place the supports for the bell in a symmetrical fashion, and to preserve the sense of freedom and openness around the bell by minimizing their size. Traditionally the bell would usually be held in place by a framed structure, and this would be our first choice. If the architect would like to pursue his original proposal of masonry supports, however, then they should be restudied in natural stone and designed as simple rectangular masses. They should not be curved to fit the shape of the bell, as that restricts the view and sense of movement around the bell.

The Commission is meeting next on January 19, but if there is a problem with scheduling, we will be happy to review any material before that time. At any rate, at the design's present stage we urge the architect to prepare rough sketches for the next presentation rather than finely detailed drawings.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr., Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1978

Dear Mr. Steele:

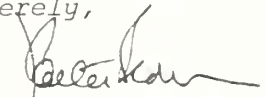
At its meeting on December 20, 1977, the Commission reconsidered its earlier approval of completing the application of solar film on F.O.B. #6.

Since taking that action, we had the staff look into the use of such film and see what factors there were in its favor. We found out that apart from industry statistics there is not much in the way of technical information backing up claims for savings in energy costs. It is our judgement that the government should hold off on any widespread use of solar film until such time as an independent evaluation can be made on its effectiveness.

As far as F.O.B. #6 is concerned, we would have no objection to completing the application of solar film to all floors, since the building would have a uniform appearance on all sides. However, as our study points out, it may not make much sense in terms of savings or the comfort of the building's occupants. The reduced natural illumination at least on the north side of the building creates a rather gloomy atmosphere on the inside which people usually correct by keeping the lights on. And while that may provide illumination for the normal work routine, it does nothing to cheer up the dim view of the out of doors, not to mention increased operating costs.

^{2 parts}
I am enclosing a copy of our staff study for your information.

Sincerely,


J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James F. Steele, Jr.
Regional Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Region 3
Washington, D.C. 20407

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS, MAY 17, 1917

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1978

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am happy to report that the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on December 20, 1977, approved the revised designs for the Marian Anderson medal.

We appreciate the considerable efforts made by the Mint and the medal's designer, Mr. Gasparro, in working with the Commission on a very difficult problem.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Frank H. McDonald
Deputy Director of the Mint
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 9, 1978

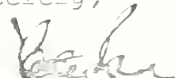
Dear Col. Starobin:

The Commission was delighted to see the revised designs for the restored Georgetown Market which we reviewed at our meeting on December 20, 1977.

The incorporation of the new stairs and mechanical equipment within the shell of the old building is a much more satisfactory solution and is approved.

We appreciate the cooperation we received from the District and the market's architect and future operator, since we are well aware of the time constraints that were involved in this project.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Col. Sam D. Starobin, Director
Department of General Services
613 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1978

Dear Col. Starobin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on December 20, 1977, approved designs for the Lincoln Center for the Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped at 5th and L Streets, S.E.

We hope the design can be carried through in its final form with the same simplicity shown in the preliminary project drawings.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Col. Sam D. Starobin, Director
Department of General Services
613 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

703 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1978

Dear Mr. Pifer:

I am glad to report on the Commission's actions, taken at its meeting on December 20, 1977, regarding the Georgetown Park project, on the site of the old D.C. Transit facilities just west of Wisconsin Avenue along the canal.

First of all, the Commission approves the general development plan for the entire project. It has, for the most part, an appropriate scale and character, and its preservation of several worthy existing buildings is commendable. We are also encouraged by the traffic study which at least holds out the hope that the traffic which the project will generate can be handled through proper design of the entrance to the underground parking and some adjustment to the on-street parking on Wisconsin Avenue.

There were three separate cases submitted for this project upon which the Commission acted as follows:

OG 78-35, 3222 M Street, N.W., New Residential, Commercial, and Accessory Parking Building. The Commission recommends the retention of the M Street facades of all existing buildings on M Street. In addition, we urge further study of the two taller residential units in order to minimize the impact of their larger size on the rest of the development. Their present height is unacceptable. The row houses clustered tightly together over the commercial levels should be rearranged, if feasible, in order to give a bit more space between the rows of houses. Further study will also be necessary of the arcade at the lower level and the manner in which it relates to the old retaining wall bordering the north side of the canal. Everything should be done in order to preserve this historic stone wall with as little alteration as possible.

OG 78-36, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Demolition of Building on Lot 59. The Commission approves the partial demolition of the roof and north walls, and the retention of the existing south wall, in order to provide for a small park on the south of the canal. This park should be designed so that the bridge over the canal can be at the park's western end.

January 10, 1978

OG 78-37, 3225 Grace Street, N.W., Renovation of Existing Building. The Commission approves the introduction of new window openings in the existing brick wall, and the replacement of the existing roof with a new roof that will essentially reflect the character of the original. In this regard, we strongly recommend the use of flush mounted skylights instead of dormers so that the silhouette of the present roof can be retained.

The Commission requests submission of the designs as they are developed at various stages so that the project can be properly coordinated over the entire development process.

We appreciate the response made by the developers so far in meeting the Commission's design objectives, and look forward to working with them on the project.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Ernest L. Pifer
Chief, Permit Branch
Department of Economic Development
Room 105, 614 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

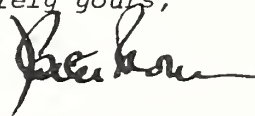
9 December, 1977

Dear Mr. Barnes:

The Commission is looking forward to reviewing the development of the sidewalk paving and landscaping schemes for the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue at its meeting on December 20, 1977.

At our informal session last month, the material that was presented only covered the block immediately adjacent to the new building for the National Gallery. We look forward to seeing your plans for accommodating the varying conditions in the entire area west to 13th Street.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. W. Anderson Barnes
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Suite 1148
Washington, D.C. 20004

